

REMARKS AND ARGUMENTS

The current status of the claims is not clear. In the previous Office Action dated November 29, 2002, the Examiner imposed a species requirement. Applicants traversed the species requirement, but nevertheless made the required election.

In the current Office Action dated January 15, 2003, the Office Action Summary sheet at the Disposition of Claims portion shows in Item #4 that Claims 1-7, 10 and 19-27 are pending. The other Items #5, #6, #7 and #8 are blank.

In the body of the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges Applicants' election of Claims 19-24 and 27. The Examiner also acknowledges Applicants' traversal of the species requirement. Without addressing the merits of Applicants traversal of the species requirement, the Examiner makes the requirement final

Then in Paragraph 5 of the Office Action dated January 15, 2003, the Examiner proceeds to give an action on the merits of all Claims 1-27.

It is the position of Applicants that all of the claims originally filed in this application, Claims 1-27, are pending in this application and that there are no claims that have been withdrawn from consideration. By giving an action on the merits of all of the claims, the Examiner has made the species requirement moot.

The Examiner objected to the Title of the Invention and the Title has been amended as required.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings for failing to show a certain feature specified in the claims. The claims have been amended to delete any reference to that feature which is not shown in the drawings.

Claims 1-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Gatley et al (GB 2239547) in view of Piechowiak et al (US 6012982).

Both independent method claim 1 and independent apparatus claim 25 have been amended to specify that a single main screen is used to display the first slot game and the second slot game. This amendment clearly distinguishes Applicants' method and apparatus from the reference to Gatley et al. (GB 2239547).

The reference to Gatley discloses two slot machines mounted side-by-side or on top of each other, with the two slot machines using a common coin validator and a common credit register. The two slot machines are separately playable and use separate components such as the display glass, the light box and the computer program card.

Applicants' invention is a patentable improvement over the disclosure of Gatley. By using a single main screen, Applicants' method and apparatus has much more flexibility than the device disclosed in Gatley. A single main screen allows for two or more

slot games that can vary in size in the amount of the screen display used. Only a single display glass is needed and only a single set of computer controls is needed.

The secondary reference to Piechowiak is relied upon for the disclosure of slot machine games with multiple pay lines. There is nothing in Piechowiak that teaches or suggests having multiple slot games displayed on a single main screen. It is submitted that the reference to Piechowiak does not overcome the deficiencies of Gatley with regard to the amended Claim 1 and amended Claim 25.

Claims 2-24 depend, directly or indirectly, from Claim 1 and Claims 26 and 27 depend from Claim 25 and each is submitted to be allowable for the same reasons that Claim 1 and Claim 25, as amended, are allowable.

Additionally, with regard to Claim 9, this claim specifies that the when a feature is activated on the first or second game, the bonus feature operates in conjunction with any outcome achieved on the other game. There is no interaction disclosed between the two separate slot machines of the Gatley reference and it submitted that Claim 9 is also allowable for this reason.

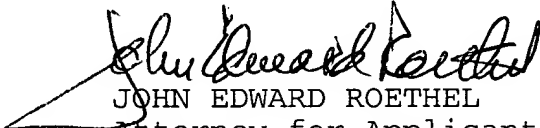
Claims 21-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Gatley et al (GB 2239547) in view of Piechowiak et al (US 6012982) as applied to Claim 19, and further in view of Thomas et al. (US 6190255).

The reference to Thomas is relied upon for the disclosure of a

"pick-em" type bonus game. However, there is nothing in Thomas that teaches or suggests having multiple slot games displayed on a single main screen. It is submitted that the reference to Thomas does not overcome the deficiencies of Gatley with regard to the amended Claim 1. Therefore, Claims 21-24, which depend directly or indirectly from Claim 1, are submitted to be allowable for the same reasons that Claim 1, as amended, is allowable.

Applicants submit that all of the claims pending in this application, Claims 1-27, are allowable over the prior art of record and the Examiner is requested to reconsider his rejections of Claims 1-27 and to find that these claims are now allowable. If the Examiner has further questions regarding this application, the Examiner is requested to call undersigned counsel.

Respectfully submitted,


JOHN EDWARD ROETHEL
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 28,372

4880 West University Avenue
Suite B-3
Las Vegas, Nevada 89103
Phone: (702) 364-1190